

**Massachusetts All-Payer Claims Database  
Monthly Technical Assistance Group (TAG) Webinar  
Meeting Notes**

Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2012  
Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm EST

The Division of Health Care Finance and Policy (Division) convenes a monthly technical assistance group (TAG) webinar with health care payers to discuss the all-payer claims database (APCD) implementation and provide technical support to the group. The following is a summary of the meeting from Tuesday, February 14, 2012:

**I. Welcome and Introduction**

Marc Prettenhofer welcomed everyone to the Massachusetts all-payer claims database (APCD) technical assistance group (TAG) webinar and thanked participants for their engagement with the Division to make the implementation of the APCD successful. M. Prettenhofer reviewed the TAG call agenda with payers.

**II. APCD Administrative Updates**

**a. TAG meeting summary notes from previous months available on the APCD website**

- The Division is committed to providing payers with the documentation and support necessary to ensure the successful implementation of the APCD. While the Division encourages full payer participation on the TAG calls, the Division recognizes that some payers are not able to participate and therefore has made meeting summary notes available for download on the APCD website ([www.mass.gov/dhcfp/apcd](http://www.mass.gov/dhcfp/apcd)) under USER RESOURCES to ensure important information is available to all. The website has been updated recently and now includes .zip files containing file edits in .pdf and excel format.

**b. APCD Website Updated**

- The Division has updated its APCD website going into 2012. Materials from meetings, forums, etc. for 2011 and older have been archived and early dates for 2012 have been listed.

**III. Technical Support**

**a. Payer Specific Questions**

- QUESTION: What is the overall schedule for the new layouts? Final released in June expected to be in files when? Is there a

public comment period before new fields are final? Will there be any new file types?

- ANSWER: [Prettenhofer, Marc (HCF)] *The Draft of the next APCD Specifications will only address the need to add a few fields, like POA Indicator for grouping and an ICD Version Indicator (9 vs. 10) for overall reporting and grouping. The majority of the other changes will reflect the already adjusted items since the specification release. These are element length increases, lookup table value additions, interdependent element conditions stated for editing and some narrative clarifications.*

*The Draft is expected to be released by the end of March 2012 for a 60-90 day review. It is known that the added fields to the MC file for the refining elements will be of most concern to the submitters since the other changes were completed to ease reporting requirements. The Final is expected to be released at the end of June 2012 so that reporting of new fields can be collected by the August/September filing periods.*

*There are no new File Types planned at this time.*

- QUESTION: What will be the process if new fields are added (or priority raised) that a carrier simply does not have? Will that be handled by variance as well?

- ANSWER: [Prettenhofer, Marc (HCF)] *The Variance Process should be maintained for submitters to report information to the APCD on data that they do not have. If the information seems to be integral to the overall process, then discussions commence to decide if a remediation plan is required or not.*

- QUESTION: How will the ICD 10 affect the data submission? Will it change the data element(s) and/or their thresholds?

- ANSWER: [Prettenhofer, Marc (HCF)] *Current APCD specifications allow for the reporting length of the new ICD10 codes, what the specifications do not currently have is a way for submitters to indicate whether the claim was originally processed on an ICD9 or ICD10 platform. The inclusion of a new element, ICD Version Indicator, will help with reporting and grouping issues.*

*This addition will create a new element that will require a threshold to be calculated on it since it points to other elements with varying base percentage reporting.*

- QUESTION: When will there be updated submission guides available?

- ANSWER: [Prettenhofer, Marc (HCF)] *The Draft APCD Specification update should be available by the end of March 2012.*
- QUESTION: When are these new fields expected to be in our files? Beginning with January 2013 paid data?
- ANSWER: [Prettenhofer, Marc (HCF)] *The new fields being added to this version update are expected on the files for the August/September timeframe. Carriers that may have a need for extended coding on their files should work with their Liaison and discuss reporting requirements, timeframes and possible short-term solutions.*

#### IV. Additional Items and Next Steps

- The **next TAG webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 2pm – 3pm EST** and subsequent webinars are scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.
- The Analytic Workgroup normally held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month is being combined with the Technical Workgroup for the month of February. This combined meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:40 P.M.